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REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 7-17, 19-21, and 23-27 are pending in the present application. Claims 5-6, 18 and 22 were previously canceled, and claims 2, 3 and 12 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

The newly submitted drawing (Figure 4) is objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "1" has been used to designate both the wafer and the terminal of the second apparatus. A replacement sheet, which corrects this discrepancy, is submitted herewith.

Claims 2-3 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claims 2 and 3 have been amended to correct the antecedent basis issue pointed out by the examiner. Claim 12 has been amended to remove the phrase "adequately brittle." Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2, 3 and 12 are in condition for allowance with respect to their compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-2, 4, 7, 13, 21 and 23-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Haimerl et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,897,568, hereinafter "Haimerl"). Other dependent claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Haimerl in view of other prior art. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim 1 recites "after applying a casting compound, reducing a thickness of the casting compound so that the connection area protrudes through the casting compound." Haimerl does not teach or suggest reducing a thickness of the casting compound, and therefore cannot

teach or suggest the limitations of claim 1 of the present application. In fact, the office action provides no citation to any portion of the reference that teaches this feature. It is noted that both the present invention and the Haimerl reference are assigned to a common assignee. As a result, the Haimerl patent cannot be used in an obviousness rejection. Applicants have not provided a statement of common ownership in view of the PCT counterpart of the Haimerl U.S. patent, which was published in November 2001, more than one year prior to the filing of this application.

Claims 2-4, 7-17, 19-20, and 26-27 depend from claim 1 and add further limitations. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims are allowable by reason of depending from an allowable claim as well as for adding new limitations.

Claim 21 recites that "excess thickness of the casting compound is removed ... " Haimerl does not teach or suggest removing an excess thickness of the casting compound, and therefore cannot teach or suggest the limitations of claim 21 of the present application.

Claims 23-25 depend from claim 21 and add further limitations. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims are allowable by reason of depending from an allowable claim as well as for adding new limitations.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Ira S. Matsil, Applicants' attorney, at 972-732-1001 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. No fee is believed due in connection with this filing. However, should one be deemed due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge, or credit any overpayment, Deposit Account No. 50-1065.

Respectfully submitted,



Ira S. Matsil  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 35,272

12/28/06

Date

SLATER & MATSIL, L.L.P.  
17950 Preston Rd., Suite 1000  
Dallas, Texas 75252  
Tel.: 972-732-1001  
Fax: 972-732-9218